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ORIGIN ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 SIG-03 MMO-01 ISO-00 /035 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:CHUCK BRAYSHAW; ARA (GUY. WG):EO'DONNELL:BG

APPROVED BY ARA:JABUSHNELL

ARA/AND:RZIMMERMANN

S/S-O:JTHYDEN

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TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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USCINCARRED FT MCPHERSON GA

CDF 1ST AIRBORNE CORPS FT BRAGG NC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 295317

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, OREP (RYAN, LEO), GY

REF: STATE 293999 AND PREVIOUS

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON SITUATION IN GUYANA

1. FOLLOWING FOR YOUR INFORMATION IS A REPORT ON THE SHOOTING INCIDENT THAT OCCURRED IN GUYANA ON NOVEMBER 12 IN WHICH CONGRESSMAN LEO RYAN AND OTHERS WERE KILLED.

2. AT APPROXIMATELY 6:30 P.M. EST, NOVEMBER 12 EMBASSY GEORGETOWN REPORTED THAT CODEL RYAN HAD BEEN ATTACKED WHILE RETURNING FROM THE PEOPLES TEMPLE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY IN THE REMOTE NORTHWEST INTERIOR OF GUYANA.

CODEL RYAN HAD TRAVELED TO GUYANA TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS BY RELATIVES THAT MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLES TEMPLE COMMUNITY WERE BEING HELD AGAINST THEIR WILL.

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RYAN WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A LARGE NUMBER OF JOURNALISTS

INCLUDING AN NBC TV CAMERA CREW FROM SAN FRANCISCO

AS WELL AS BY THE EMBASSY GEORGETOWN DCM (RICHARD

DWYER), MARK LANE AND ANOTHER ATTORNEY WHO ARE COUNSEL

FOR THE PEOPLES TEMPLE COMMUNITY. THE GROUP TRAVELED

TO PORT KAITUMA, THE NEAREST AIRSTRIP TO THE COMMUNITY,

BY CHARTERED AIRCRAFT THE AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 17 AND,

AFTER HAVING SPENT THE NIGHT AT THE COMMUNITY, SOUGHT

TO RETURN TO GEORGETOWN ON NOVEMBER 18, ACCOMPANIED BY

SOME SIX TO TEN MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLES TEMPLE WHO WISHED

TO LEAVE. THE PARTY WAS BOARDING TWO CHARTERED AIRCRAFT

WHEN ONE OF THE TEMPLE MEMBERS IN THE SMALLER OF THE

TWO AIRCRAFT PRODUCED A GUN AND BEGAN TO SHOOT AT OTHER

PASSENGERS. AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME TIME, A FLATBED

TRAILOR PULLED BY A TRACTOR APPEARED ON THE AIRSTRIP.

A NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE TRAILOR, PRESUMED TO BE

PEOPLES TEMPLE MEMBERS, OPENED FIRE ON CONGRESSMAN

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